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and other objects of a high antiquity, and that some of them are of the typical form of the oldest mound pipes, viz.: A cylindrical or sculptured bowl rising from the center of the convex side of a curved platform, we are forced to believe that their age is very considerable.¹

It is highly probable that future investigations may point to a still greater antiquity of the art of fashioning objects in pipestone than has been positively assigned to it in these pages, and, indeed, it is within the range of possibility that the aboriginal operations at the Great Pipestone quarry may be proved to have antedated the Spanish discovery of America by many centuries.

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EDITORS' TABLE.

EDITORS: A. S. PACKARD, JR., AND E. D. COPE.

— The unification of geological nomenclature, and of the system of colors used for geological maps, are two objects which the International Congress of Geologists has proposed to accomplish. So far as the nomenclature of the formations is concerned, the only *doubles emplois* which occur, and which are likely to occur, are to be found in the different names given by geologists to the same formation when they exist in different continents. Such duplications are not very numerous, but they are sufficiently so to demand attention. The only attempt in this direction of unification with which we are acquainted, is to be found in the first volume of the *Comptes Rendus* of the Congress, Paris, 1868.² It was there maintained that while the lesser sub-divisions of the formation of Europe and America can rarely be identified, those of primary and secondary grade are often clearly the same, and should bear the same name on both continents. The general adoption of the uniform nomenclature may be greatly facilitated by its recommendation by the Congress of Berlin.

A general uniformity in the system of geological coloration has long prevailed, but in detail there is much discrepancy. At present there are three principal systems in use: those of the committees which reported to the Congress of Bologna; that of the United States Geological Survey, and that of the Geological Sur-

¹ For other objects of pipestone not described here, see proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, Vol. 1, pl. IV.

² Comparison of the horizons of extinct vertebrata of Europe and America.

vey of Canada. The considerations which should guide the final selection of a uniform system, must be—first, availability for practical use; and second, the extent to which any given system has already been perpetuated in existing cartography.

The important condition first mentioned obviously includes the presentation of a sufficiently large number of sufficiently distinct colors or patterns, to include all the minor geological divisions which have been, or are to be, discovered. From this standpoint the plans sent in by the committees to the Congress of Bologna are very defective. Their authors apparently forgot that Europe constitutes but a small part of the world, and that the system to be adopted must represent America, Asia, Africa, and Australia. The United States system, devised by Powell, is much better in this respect. A combination of this with the European scheme would do very well for the continents where they originated, but we suspect that even this combination would not be sufficient for the entire world. A larger list of colors and pattern variations even than that offered by Powell, will be required when the geology of the world comes to be known. In using them, also, care must be observed to allow vacancies for the undiscovered formations, and only paleontologists will be able to furnish indications as to where these are likely to be intercalated.

— In an editorial of May, 1881, we referred to the desirability of a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in America in 1883. The proposition to meet here in that year was not adopted by the association, but it has determined to meet in Montreal in 1884. The Allan line of steamers has offered extensive facilities to the visiting members, and the hospitalities of Montreal have been freely proffered. A large number of members have signified their intention of availing themselves of this opportunity of visiting our continent.

It is desirable that the meeting of the American Association, held the same year, shall be fixed at such a time as will enable the visitors to attend it also. The locality should not be remote from Montreal, and should be of easy access. An invitation will probably be sent from Philadelphia, the birth-place of the American Association. Should this be accepted our British friends may expect a warm and appreciative welcome. The Academy of Natural Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Franklin Institute have appointed committees to take the matter in charge.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

WHITE'S NON-MARINE FOSSIL MOLLUSCA OF NORTH AMERICA.¹
—In this work the palæontological student has for the first time

¹ *Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey.* J. W. Powell, Director. A review of the non-marine fossil Mollusca of North America. By CHARLES A. WHITE. Extract from the annual report of the director of the U. S. Geological Survey, 1881–82, Washington, 1883. Large 8vo, pp. 144, 32 plates.